









RED CHINA'S FIVE TOP MEN



MAO TSE-TUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (CENTER). LIU SHAO-CHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF RED CHINA AND MAO'S LIKELY SUCCESSOR (UPPER RIGHT). PENG CHEN, MAYOR OF PEKING (LOWER RIGHT). TUNG HSIANG-PING, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY (LOWER LEFT). CHOU EN-LAI, PREMIER (UPPER LEFT).

NATION WRAPPED IN CONFLICT

Land and People

AREA. 3,691,502 square miles, 3rd largest in the world.

POPULATION. 750,000,000, largest in the world. About 80% of the people live in the eastern fifth of the country. Sinkiang Province in the extreme west contains about a sixth of the nation's area and a population of only 8,000,000. Approximately 50,000,000 persons, mainly in the south and west, are members of non-Chinese minority groups.

TERRAIN. Eastern China consists of flat lowlands. These merge into a large plateau covering most of the central and western parts of the country. The Himalayas and Kunlun Mountains are major ranges in the west. The Gobi Desert extends down into north-central China. Much of the west is a semi-desert region. Forests cover areas of the south bordering Burma, Laos, and North Viet Nam. The 2 main rivers are the Yangtze and Yellow.

Economic Progress Being Made

"THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD" of the late 1950's, which saw industrial development given top priority over agriculture, led to famine conditions in some areas and almost ruined the Red regime. Since then, emphasis has been placed on stepping up farm output through increased use of chemical fertilizers and other modern methods. Economic conditions have steadily improved during the 1960's.

LAST YEAR'S PRODUCTION of rice, wheat, and other crops showed a big gain. Observers believe that the Chinese have more to eat now than at any time since the communists came to power in 1949.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS, though not spectacular, has been steady. China ranks 2nd in the world in amount of coal mined each year, 3rd in iron ore output, and 8th in steel production. Textile goods and trucks are among the other main industrial products. China has also developed the capacity to produce nuclear weapons.

Armed Forces

THE REGULAR ARMY is believed to number about 2,700,000. (See map for major troop concentrations.) China also gives military training to many farmers and workers. They are formed into local militia units.

THE AIR FORCE has about 3,000 planes, which makes it the 3rd largest in the world behind America's and Russia's. But most of these aircraft are obsolete. Since the split with Russia, spare parts have also been in short supply.

CHINA'S NAVY is very small. It is built around a fleet of 20 submarines.

SUPPLY PROBLEM. In some areas, including Yunnan and other parts of the south, the road and railroad system is inadequate for moving and supplying large numbers of troops. Some military experts feel that China would have trouble intervening on a massive scale in Viet Nam for this reason.

NUCLEAR POTENTIAL. China has exploded 2 atomic test devices thus far. Secretary of Defense McNamara has said that Peking will pose a nuclear threat to her neighbors within 5 years.

Policy Toward Neighbors

CHINA'S ONLY 2 ALLIES in Asia are North Viet Nam and North Korea. Even these 2 lands maintain reasonably friendly relations with the Soviet Union—China's arch rival for leadership of the communist world.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA are icy. Ideological differences are topped off by conflicting territorial claims. China says that she is the rightful owner of large parts of Russian-occupied Siberia. The Soviet Union covets territory in China's Sinkiang Province. Brief clashes are reported to have occurred at many points along their border during recent years. Both sides have stationed large numbers of troops in the frontier region.

CHINA AND INDIA fought a brief war in the fall of 1962. Chinese troops still occupy about 10,000 square miles of Indian territory in Ladakh (1-4). There are frequent exchanges of gunfire along the frontier of these 2 lands.

CHINA'S MAIN PUSH at the present time is in the direction of Southeast Asia. She is egging on and aiding North Viet Nam's aggression against South Viet Nam and Laos, and is also trying to organize a guerrilla uprising in Thailand.

A SERIOUS SETBACK was recently dealt to Peking's hopes of extending her influence over Southeast Asia. Pro-communist President Sukarno of Indonesia has been stripped of his power, and replaced by an anti-communist military government.

COMMUNIST CHINA

HEADLINE-FOCUS WALL MAP 15

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